Claims

[c1]   A method of using text from a design tool to display an output to a user, said method comprising:

graphically displaying said output from said text of said design tool;

graphically listing design rule violations;

displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;

generating and annotating a subset output file for use by other users; and

generating software help functions allowing said user to gain information about design rule violations.

[c2]   The method of claim 1 wherein said design tool is a design rule checking system.

[c3]   The method of claim 1 wherein said text comprises text output from said design tool.

[c4]   The method of claim 3 wherein said text output from said design tool comprises an input file for software implementing said method.

[c5]   The method of claim 1 including individually selecting said design rule violations.

[c6]   The method of claim 1 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.

[c7]   The method of claim 6 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.

[c8]   The method of claim 7 wherein said pop-up window further includes information identifying said design rule violations, net name, component name, information relating to design rules.

[c9]   The method of claim 8 wherein said pop-up window further comprises the identification of parameters being checked along with information as to said parameters' importance.

[c10]   The method of claim 1 including drawing a bounding box around any of said design rule violations.

[c11]   The method of claim 1 including loading and viewing said subset output file without running said design tool rule checker.

[c12]   The method of claim 1 wherein said subset file includes saved information relating to an identified violation.

[c13] The method of claim 12 further including electronically sharing said saved information with different users.

[c14] The method of claim 12 comprising requesting said identified violation be saved such that a resulting output file contains only those of said design rule violations that a user requested be saved, preserving said original design file.

[c15] The method of claim 1 wherein said software help functions include highlighting, zooming, measuring cumulative distance between multiple points, changing viewpoints of a design, changing magnification level, changing feature visibility, and changing location of a viewport.

[c16] The method of claim 1 further comprising reselecting said design rule violations to return to an originally presented view.

[c17] A method of viewing violations identified by a design rule checker comprising:
inputting text output from said design rule checker into a software program routine for viewing said violations;
inputting design file information into said software program routine;
generating a subset output file of said violations for a

user to view; and

editing said design file based on said violations.

[c18] The method of claim 17 further comprising:
inputting design data and rule checker parameters into a
design rule checking tool; and
performing design rule checking.

[c19] The method of claim 17 including generating a subset
text output file of said violations.

[c20] The method of claim 17 including allowing said user to
individually select said violations.

[c21] The method of claim 17 including representing said out-
put as part of a software layer of said design rule
checker, and deleting said output when no longer re-
quired.

[c22] The method of claim 21 including having said software
layer presented in a pop-up window display.

[c23] A program storage device readable by a machine, tangi-
bly embodying a program of instructions executable by
the machine to perform method steps for using text
from a design tool to display an output to a user, said
method steps comprising:
graphically displaying said output from said text of said

design tool;

graphically listing design rule violations;

displaying said output as part of a software layer of said design tool such that no permanent changes are made to any original design file;

generating and annotating a subset output file for use by other users; and

generating software help functions allowing said user to gain information about design rule violations.

[c24] The program storage device of claim 23 wherein said text comprises text output from said design tool.

[c25] The program storage device of claim 24 wherein said text output from said design tool comprises an input file for software implementing said method.

[c26] The program storage device of claim 23 including individually selecting said design rule violations.

[c27] The program storage device of claim 23 including representing said output as part of said software layer of said design tool, and deleting said output when no longer required.

[c28] The program storage device of claim 27 including having said software layer presented in a pop-up window display.

[c29]   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for viewing violations identified by a design rule checker, said method steps comprising:

inputting text output from said design rule checker into a software program routine for viewing said violations;

inputting design file information into said software program routine;

generating a subset output file of said violations for a user to view; and

editing said design file based on said violations.

[c30]   The method of claim 29 including generating a subset text output file of said violations.